

Behaviour Policy

As a registered childminder I recognise the need to set out reasonable and appropriate limits to manage the behaviour of children in my care.

By providing a happy, safe environment, the children in my care will be encouraged to develop social skills to help them be accepted and welcome in society as they grow up.

Procedure

I keep up to date with behaviour management issues and relevant legislation by taking regular training and by reading relevant publications from Ofsted.

All parents have access to a copy of my Behaviour Policy. A copy can be printed out on request.

I will not administer physical punishment, cause pain, discomfort, humiliate or hurt any child in my care.

I endorse positive discipline as an effective way of setting boundaries for children. Promoting positive behaviour is very important and I do this by:

- Giving lots of praise for good behaviour
- Giving the children individual attention so they feel valued
- Setting a good example, being a good role model
- Listening to what the children have to say
- Rewarding good behaviour (choosing next activity etc)

I agree methods to manage children's behaviour with parents before the placement starts. These are discussed with parents during initial visits before the contract is signed and recorded in the child's file. If child do misbehave I will use one of the following strategies

- Distraction. Remove the child from the situation and give them an alternative activity.
- Ignore. Depending on the situation I may ignore the bad behaviour as I feel it is being done to get a reaction.
- Discuss with Child. If the child is able to understand I will discuss their behaviour and try and get them to appreciate the consequences of their actions on others. I inform that that it is their behaviour that I do not like not them.
- Time Out. Removing the child from the activity and sitting them quietly for a few minutes
- A strategy agreed with parents
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Wherever possible I try to meet parents' requests for the care of their children according to their values and practices. Records of these requirements are agreed and kept attached to the child record forms. These records are revisited and updated during regular reviews with parents. I ask parents to respect that this is my home and I have some behaviour which I find

unacceptable, such as climbing on furniture and eating food in the lounge. These will be discussed before the child starts.

I expect parents to inform me of any changes in the child's home circumstances, care arrangements or any other change which may affect the child's behaviour such as a home, a new baby, parents' separation, divorce, new partner or any bereavement. All information shared will be kept confidential unless there appears to be a child protection issue. I also expect parents to inform me of any changes in behaviour they have noticed at home so we can work in partnership in dealing with any problems the behaviour may cause.

I work together with parents to make sure there is consistency in the way the children are cared for. A consistent approach benefits the child's welfare and helps ensure that the child is not confused. I offer regular review meetings with parents to discuss their child's care and any issues or concerns, preferably when the child is not present. These can be done in person or by phone.

I will only physically intervene, and possibly restrain, a child to prevent an accident, such as a child running into the road, or to prevent an injury or damage. I will record when this occurs and inform parents on the same day, or as soon as reasonably practicable.

I record all significant behaviour incidents in an incident book. I will discuss these with the parents of the child concerned so that together we can work to resolve any behavioural issues.

I acknowledge the strength and range of children's feelings and try to help children to find constructive solutions for managing these

I encourage responsibility by talking to children about choices and their possible consequences.

I aim to be firm and consistent so that children know and feel secure within the boundaries I set.

I will respond positively to children who constantly seek attention or are disruptive.

I will help children maintain their self-esteem by showing I disapprove of challenging behaviour, not the child themselves.

If I have concerns about a child's behaviour which I cannot resolve in partnership with parents, I will ask for permission from the parents to talk it through with another childcare professional. I may call the NSPCC, health visitor or the local early years team (or other relevant advice service) for confidential advice.